

L**eague of Women Voters of the Prince William Fauquier Area**

**Board of Directors Meeting September 12, 2023**

President Pat Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Those calling in: Judy Hingle, Carol Proven, Carol Noggle, Trish Freed, Sheila Arrington, Lorraine Schooner, Laura Feld-Mushaw, Donna Anstee, Barbara Amster, Carol Schneir, Cheryl Saggers, Kim McCusker, Miriam Anver and Barbara Greiling.

**President’s report:** Pat reminded members of the Kickoff Meeting on Sept. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Bull Run Library. Anyone who can bring sweet or savory snacks to share was asked to contact Cynthia Chambliss. National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 19 and members will be at the key library branches to register voters and hand out voting information. At the invitation of the Prince William School System’s civics coordinator, members will visit high schools before Oct. 14 to register new voters.

Pat thanked Carol Proven and Trish Freed for representing the League In the LWV-VA Transformation process. As the Transformation plans mean a possible loss of revenue to our League, grant writing will be of increased importance. Pat asked that anyone with grant-writing experience please contact her.

On Sept. 18 from noon to 2 p.m., LWV-VA is offering training on using VAN, a resource that offers in-depth information on voters in our area.

Pat urged members to watch the League’s events calendar to avoid conflicts.

The new Officers Directory from LWV-VA was attached to the board meeting agenda.

**Minutes of previous meetings**: The board approved the July 18 board meeting by a unanimous vote.

**Membership report:** Cathy Ring reported that, by the end of the week, she will have contacted all members who have not renewed.

**Treasurer’s report:** Trish Freed submitted written reports. She reminded members that if events included membership recruitment, expenses must be reimbursed from the Operating Fund instead of the Education Fund.

**Voter** **Services:** Laura Feld-Mushaw will meet with Jeff Girvan, director of social studies for the school system, about high school registration before the Oct. 16 deadline. Plans are to set up a table in the social sciences department or school library. She will also contact the librarian at Woodbridge Senior High School, who has facilitated voter registration in the past. Volunteers are still needed for National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 19 at the main libraries. Laura and Carol Proven will call members who are certified for voter registration about covering shifts.

Donna Anstee said she had been asked by a retirement home resident to identify the party affiliation of candidates. She asked if this was in conflict with our nonpartisan status. She was advised that, if we identify the affiliation of candidates from both parties, it is not a problem. Trish Freed recommended that we tell retirement home activity directors about upcoming debates so that residents could watch debates via Zoom.

**Advocacy:** Carol Noggle continues to work with the NAACP and Committee of 100 on candidate debates as well as events related to the jail. She reported The Re-Entry Council will hold a family orientation on Oct. 19 and the Adult Detention Center is sponsoring a Community Resource Fair on Nov. 8.

Miriam Anver reported the Fauquier Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a meet-the-candidates event on Sept. 20

**Volunteer coordinator:** Judy Hingle continues to post opportunities on SignUp Genius as she gets the details. Cathy Ring asked about a way to indicate that you are interested in activities but are not available. It was pointed out that you can leave a comment on the signup slot, but it was thought that might lead to confusion. She was advised to send an email to committee chairs instead.

**Transformation**: Trish Freed and Carol Proven reported LWV-US plans to centralize the membership process by hiring a vendor to collect membership dues, send out renewal notifications, and allocate funds to state and local leagues. The current proposal would be for the National League to receive 33 percent, the State League 47 percent and the local chapter 20 percent. The plan is to build up state coffers to aid in advocacy. Dues would be the same for all chapters: $75 for individuals, $112.50 for households and $20 for students. Additional funds raised through membership would not go to the local chapters. The plan is expected to go into effect by the end of 2024, but a vendor has not been selected. Trish reported it could mean a loss of income to our League of about $500 a year. LWV-VA has pledged to make up the shortfall for the first two years, but it is unclear how that would work. This will also require a change in our bylaws. Trish and Carol will continue to attend the LWV-VA Transformation meetings and keep us informed. Pat again asked for help with grant writing to help make up for our lost income going forward.

**Racial and Social Justice Commission**: Lorraine Schooner has been monitoring commission meetings. She reported little has been accomplished other than procedural issues. The commission has decided to continue to meet and she will monitor the meetings.

**Story hour project**: Carol Proven said Janet Gorn sent a report on the story hour held Sept. 11 at Dumfries Library. Janet reported the event was a great success. Janet scheduled story hours at six libraries from Sept. 11 through Sept. 21. Each child will receive a coloring book, “Do Your Part and Vote.” A question was raised about the cost of the coloring books. The League ordered 300 coloring books at a cost of $316.

**Other business**:

Pat Reilly recommended the board dismiss a Point of Order Action Request from Janet Gorn regarding the Young Democrats’ request to help LWV-PWFA, as Janet was not in attendance at two board meetings to discuss her request. Pat moved the matter be dismissed, Carol Proven seconded the motion, and it passed by majority vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Barbara Greiling

Recording secretary